

such deaths. Therefore, continuous improvements in the development of new and improved biomaterials capable of replacing parts of the cardiovascular system is extremely important. The primary requirements for biomaterials for long-term implants, e.g. heart valve prostheses, stents, and vascular grafts, are biocompatibility, thromboreactivity, nontoxicity, and durability. Furthermore, biomaterials should be nonirritating to tissue and nondegradable in the harsh physiological environment, neither absorbing blood constituents nor releasing foreign substance into the bloodstream.--

On page 4 replace the paragraph starting on line 6 with the following paragraph:

Generally, the preferred nanostructure protective coating comprises a plurality of nano-scale inner ceramic layers comprising zirconia, titania, alumina, and an outer layer formed of a nitride based compound selected from the group consisting of aluminum nitride, zirconium nitride and hafnium nitride.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 5, 6, 17, 20 and 29 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 28 and 30 to read as follows:

1. An intracorporeal device having a protective self-repairing coating on a surface thereof, comprising:
 - a. an inner coating component having at least one layer formed of ceramic material on the surface of the device; and